

VZCZCXRO4615
RR RUEHGH
DE RUEHUL #1464 2570701
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 140701Z SEP 09
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5641
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC 9151
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6707
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0287
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 6634
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RUEHGH/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 1266
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG 5032
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 3991
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 7207
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1515
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2829
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1907
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2515

UNCLAS SEOUL 001464

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MARR](#) [ECON](#) [KPAO](#) [KMDR](#) [KS](#) [US](#)

SUBJECT: SEOUL - MEDIA REACTION

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC: DPRK

"Resumption of U.S.-North Korea Dialogue"

Right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo editorialized (09/14): "Some people believe that U.S.-North Korea dialogue is inevitable in order to resolve the North Korean nuclear standoff. The issue is the format and pace of the dialogue. ... Above all, we hope that the Obama Administration will not follow in the footsteps of the previous Bush Administration, which took an inconsistent approach toward North Korea by adopting an ultra hard-line stance in its early days and turning excessively conciliatory in its final days. ... There is an (important) point that the USG should not forget under any circumstance; it is the principle that North Korea must get rid of its nuclear weapons. The U.S. should not forget this point even for a moment."

"North Korea-U.S. Bilateral Talks"

Conservative Dong-a Ilbo editorialized (09/14): "Washington should exercise caution to ensure that the U.S.-North Korea bilateral talks do not replace the Six-Party Talks or that the U.S. will not be used by North Korea to exclude the ROK from discussion of issues surrounding the Korean Peninsula. Furthermore, the bilateral talks should not result in derailing the Six-Party Framework. ... Caution is also needed to temper optimism that the North's return to the negotiating table will end its nuclear threat. ... The international community should remember that mere dialogue without sanctions for North Korea's behavior is not enough to get the communist state moving. Sanctions must remain until it has been confirmed that the communist state has abandoned its nuclear program."

"U.S.-North Korea Dialogue Should Lead to Denuclearization Negotiations"

Moderate Hankook Ilbo editorialized (09/14): "What matters is that U.S.-North Korea talks should provide momentum for North Korea to return to the Six-Party Talks and engage in denuclearization negotiations. ... However, the prospect of holding the Six Party Talks seems uncertain because North Korea is highly likely to insist on being recognized as a nuclear state."

"U.S.-North Korea Dialogue Should Lead to Denuclearization
Negotiations"

Left-leaning Hankyoreh Shinmun editorialized (09/14): "Although the U.S. is limiting the character of these talks to an attempt to bring North Korea back to the Six-Party Talks, the significance of these talks should not be taken lightly in that they will represent the first real dialogue between the two countries during U.S. President Barack Obama's Administration. ... Peace on the Korean Peninsula, the only region in the world still caught up in a 20th century-style Cold War, is impossible without a simultaneous resolution regarding North Korea's nuclear program and its concerns about the stability of its system. In that sense, both North Korea and the U.S. need to approach these talks as an opportunity to lay the groundwork for peace on the peninsula and to bring back the Six-Party Talks, which made considerable headway towards resolving these issues."

TOKOLA